

September 19, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

TIME AND DATE: 12:00 Noon, Monday, September 18, 1972

PLACE: The CIA Auditorium, Langley, Virginia

SUBJECT: Remarks by Henry A. Kissinger at CIA on  
the Occasion of CIA's 25th Anniversary

Director Helms introduced Mr. Kissinger by describing him as the man who was more familiar with CIA's product and performance than any other person in Washington. Mr. Kissinger, said Director Helms, is CIA's most severe critic and its most steadfast supporter.

Mr. Kissinger opened his remarks by recalling that early on in the Nixon Administration when various agreements of mutual support were being made and when pledges were being extracted that he would confine himself to long-range planning and not get into operational matters, the Director got him aside and said all that was very well said but that when the problems began to fly (Mr. Kissinger noted that the Director had used another word but there were ladies present in the auditorium) Mr. Kissinger would find that there was only one agency which works for the President alone.

-- Mr. Kissinger stated that the Director's remark about the Agency had proved true and that is why Mr. Kissinger feels particularly warm toward CIA and why he was so glad to be present at the celebration of CIA's 25th anniversary.

Turning to the body of his remarks, Mr. Kissinger said that at this period when there are revolutionary changes taking place in the world, dispassionate analysis is so important to the President and to himself. We live in a period when conditions change rapidly. We need to know not just what world leaders are saying but what they mean. We need to have their statements put into a background context. That is why CIA's analysis is so important.

-- Mr. Kissinger stated that he reads almost all of CIA's analytic output with the greatest interest. Long ranger analytic papers he finds sometimes more useful than the day-to-day reporting.

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-- Mr. Kissinger noted that he does not send unevaluated reports to the President (unless they support his point of view) and that he had long ago reached an agreement with Director Helms that only evaluated reports should be sent into the President.

Turning toward Carl Duckett (Deputy Director for Science and Technology) who was on stage, Mr. Kissinger stated that Carl Duckett has been conducting a seminar for him on technical developments. He noted that such studies as Mr. Duckett turns out have been absolutely essential. Sensitive negotiations such as the SALT negotiations could not have been conducted without the analysis which enabled the President and himself in a supporting role to handle the final negotiations in Moscow.

Mr. Kissinger alluded to the fact that the method of operation of this Administration puts a premium on the type of support provided by CIA's covert services. For example, the various secret talks -- some of which have come to light, other of which have not -- never could have taken place without the assistance of the covert services.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Kissinger expressed thanks to the CIA people who do not receive publicity. He said that beyond the debt that the President owes and he owes to CIA, he wanted to mention the value of the integrity and objectivity of the information provided the President and himself. The Director's briefings give accurate information. He does not try to sway the policy maker. The people at CIA do have influence on the policy maker but they exert that influence by giving the policy maker honest options.

Mr. Kissinger ended by wishing CIA well during the coming years and he stated that he looked forward to working closely with CIA in the years ahead, providing that the elections go as hoped.

Director Helms thanked Mr. Kissinger for taking the time from the busiest schedule in town to come and participate in the 25th Anniversary celebrations.

Thomas K. Latimer